

March 12, 1992

LB 1063
LR 219, 260

SENATOR HEFNER: ...I'd have to say that Lincoln residents will come out smelling like a rose and, of course, you know how the rural residents are going to come out smelling, and I'm not going to repeat that but let's just forget that and go ahead and take care of the business before us.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Hefner. Senator Moore, followed by Senators Haberman, Withem, Schmit, and Robinson. Senator Moore.

SENATOR MOORE: Well, Madam President, I rise to correct my good friend and dean of the Legislature, Senator Warner, as well as the Governor. When I woke up this morning and was working out, he said the only alternative, this is the only alternative and that's, once again, not true, 'cause there is an alternative. That alternative is total exemption. Now it may be true there's not enough votes in here to do that, but that is an alternative. You can assume, as Senator Warner prob...has chosen to do, and I respect him for that, the court says that's not possible. The Governor can assume that's not an option. We all know what happens when we assume something and I don't need to repeat it on the floor, 'cause the court has never said any such thing. They've made "innuations", they've made several things that have been said, but they've never said it's unconstitutional for this body to exempt all property from taxation. They have not said that and Senator Warner, Governor Nelson, other members of this body, to continue to repeat that is the only choice you got is not leveling with the people of the State of Nebraska, is not leveling with the members of this body. I just don't think that's the right way to, as I said, you know, I mean that sort of shotgun wedding is not necessary. You can give them a choice. Obviously, they chose not to do. I, on the issue, introduced LB...LR 260, which is on Journal page 1274, which has been referred to the Revenue Committee which would say, if the constitutional amendment is on the ballot in May and fails, this body goes on record saying we don't like inventory, we can come back in between May 12 and June 1 and exempt all property from taxation. I continue to pursue that resolution because I think the people need to know there is an option. There is not a gun to their head. I know many supporters of 1063, many supporters of LR 219 want that gun cocked, ready, finger quivering and make sure everybody votes for this because they have no choice. They do have a choice. Senator Warner, Governor Nelson, you can assume what the court's saying, but the court has not said that and to sit there and say the only alternative is that they go